



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 2015

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Interim Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Legislative Spring Recess.** On March 26, 2015, the Assembly and Senate adjourned for its Spring Recess and are scheduled to reconvene on April 6, 2015.
- **Pursuit of County Position to Support SB 277 (Pan and Allen).** This measure would repeal the personal belief exemption option from immunization requirements for school-aged children and would require the governing board of a school district to notify parents or guardians of student immunization rates at the beginning of the regular school term. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals that protect the public's health and enhance policies and standards to encourage health protection, disease and infection control, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 277.**
- **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**
 - **County-supported SB 23 (Mitchell)** - related to CalWORKs Program grants eligibility, passed the Senate Human Services Committee by a vote of 4 to 0 on March 24, 2015, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **Status of Legislation of County Interest**

- **AB 11 (Gonzalez).** This measure would require In-Home Supportive Services providers to receive three days of paid sick leave.
- **SB 3 (Leno).** This measure would increase the State minimum wage from \$9.00 per hour to \$11.00 per hour, on or after January 1, 2016, and to \$13.00 per hour, on or after July 1, 2017.

Legislative Spring Recess

On March 26, 2015, the Assembly and Senate adjourned for its Spring Recess and are scheduled to reconvene on April 6, 2014. The Legislature will resume considering legislation introduced this session when it reconvenes.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 277 (Pan and Allen), which as introduced on February 19, 2015, would repeal the personal belief exemption (PBE) option from immunization requirements for school-aged children and would require the governing board of a school district to notify parents or guardians of student immunization rates at the beginning of the regular school term.

Under existing law, all children are required to be immunized against various diseases before being admitted to any public or private elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center. **County-supported AB 2109 of 2014**, which became effective in January 1, 2014, allows a parent or guardian to opt-out of the immunization requirements by filing a letter or affidavit with the school because of medical reasons or because the immunization is contrary to his or her personal beliefs.

SB 277 would repeal the PBE exemption. Exemptions would continue to be granted for medical reasons.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) reports that recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases highlight the importance of maintaining high immunization rates. In 2014, record numbers of pertussis cases were reported in Los Angeles County, and as of February 2015, five times as many measles cases have been reported year-to-date, as were reported on average for the entire year over the previous five years. DPH indicates that eliminating the PBE for school-required immunizations should translate

into fewer cases of vaccine-preventable diseases. Children who cannot be immunized because of their age or medical condition may be put at greater risk when children who can be immunized are opted-out under the PBE. However, DPH raises concerns that SB 277 may disempower members of the public by removing the ability to make informed choices about the health of their children. The Department of Health Services notes that increased immigration of school-aged children can avoid preventable illnesses which can otherwise result in additional visits to hospital emergency rooms.

This office and the Departments of Public Health and Health Services support SB 277. Therefore, consistent with existing policy to support measures which would establish, enhance or fund policies that encourage immunizations and reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 277.**

SB 277 is supported by numerous entities including the Health Officers Association of California and the County Health Executives Association of California. Currently, there is no opposition on file. This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health Committee on April 8, 2015.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported SB 23 (Mitchell), which as introduced on December 1, 2014, would repeal the provision under current law relating to the CalWORKs Program Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule effective January 1, 2016, and prohibit an applicant or recipient of CalWORKs benefits from being denied aid or an increase in the grant maximum aid payment for a child born into a family during a period in which the family received CalWORKs benefits, among other provisions. This measure passed the Senate Human Services Committee by a vote of 4 to 0 on March 24, 2015, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Status of Legislation of County Interest

AB 11 (Gonzalez), which as amended on March 11, 2015, would provide In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers with three days of mandatory paid sick leave, effective July 1, 2016.

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) indicates that AB 11 would result in no direct fiscal impact to the County as long as the existing IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE), which protects counties from increased costs under the IHSS program, remains in place. However, DPSS indicates that this measure could have a potential operational impact to the extent that IHSS consumers would be required to track and monitor the accrual of sick days, carryover of sick pay from year to year of paid sick leave, as well

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as approval of sick days for IHSS providers. According to DPSS, there would also be increased interaction with IHSS social workers as consumers and providers request assistance to navigate through any requirements to track and monitor sick leave, and complete timesheets and forms.

County-opposed AB 1522 (Chapter 317, Statutes of 2014), provides three days of mandatory paid sick leave to specified employees in California who accrue at least one hour for every 30 hours worked. AB 1522 specifically excluded IHSS providers. As proposed, AB 11 would extend the sick pay provisions of AB 1522 to IHSS providers.

AB 11 passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee by a vote of 5 to 2 on March 18, 2015. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 3 (Leno), which as amended on March 11, 2015, would increase the State minimum wage from \$9.00 per hour to \$11.00 per hour, on or after January 1, 2016, and to \$13.00 per hour, on or after July 1, 2017. This measure would also require automatic adjustments of the minimum wage, based on the rate of inflation, beginning January 1, 2019. SB 3 would apply to all industries, including public and private employment.

SB 3 is substantially similar to SB 935 (Leno) of 2014 which failed passage in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.

SB 3 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on April 8, 2015.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
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